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APRIL LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that the unemployment rate decreased in April for every Wisconsin metropolitan statistical area. The state's unemployment rate also showed improvement at 5.0 percent, down from 5.5 percent in March. The rate decreases in the metropolitan areas ranged from two-tenths to seven-tenths of a percentage point with the Fond du Lac and Wausau MSAs each decreasing by seven-tenths of a point. Eight of the twelve metro areas posted unadjusted April unemployment rates below the state rate of 5.0 percent, with the Madison MSA at the lowest rate at 3.5 percent.

The four metro areas with lower rates compared to one year ago were Eau Claire, Janesville, Oshkosh-Neenah and Racine.

The Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA led with a gain of 8,500 jobs in April. The Madison MSA increased by 3,600 jobs. Compared to April 2005, eight metro areas gained jobs, one metro area was unchanged and three showed a net loss of jobs. The three-county Madison MSA posted a net, annual gain of 5,600 jobs representing the state's largest metro area job increase.

COUNTY RATES

Unemployment rates in 68 of Wisconsin's 72 counties decreased from March to April. Twenty-five counties had unemployment rates at least one percent point lower over the prior month. Jackson County's unemployment rate decreased the most over the month, down 1.9 percent point to 6.3 percent. Milwaukee County remained unchanged. Only three counties in the state, Iron, Menominee and Price, had higher unemployment rates in April compared to March. Dane County, at 3.3 percent, had the state's lowest county-level unemployment rate in April. Menominee County had the state's highest county-level unemployment rate in April at 12.0 percent.

Forty-three counties had higher unemployment rates when compared to April 2005. Price County's rate was two percent points higher than last April representing the highest increase annually. Five counties rates were unchanged. Twenty-four counties had lower unemployment rates led by six-tenths of percentage point decline in both Pepin and Taylor counties' rates.

"Wisconsin's labor market continues to show improvement with 68 of 72 counties showing lower unemployment rates in April over the prior month. In addition, the total number of jobs in each of the twelve metro areas showed monthly increases in April," Secretary Gassman said.

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Employment and Labor Force

Place of Residence Data

Unadjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,054,900	3,052,200	3,014,900
Employed	2,902,600	2,883,900	2,867,900
Unemployed	152,300	168,300	147,000
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.5%	4.9%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.8%	4.9%

Adjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,079,600	3,074,800	3,036,700
<i>Employed</i>	2,932,400	2,931,000	2,896,400
<i>Unemployed</i>	147,200	143,800	140,200
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.8%	4.7%	4.6%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.0	5.5	4.9
<i>Appleton</i>	4.8	5.4	4.6
<i>Eau Claire</i>	4.6	5.2	4.7
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	4.7	5.4	4.6
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.1	5.5	4.8
<i>Janesville</i>	5.1	5.6	5.3
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.0	4.6	3.8
<i>Madison</i>	3.5	3.7	3.2
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.2	5.4	5.1
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	4.7	5.0	4.8
<i>Racine</i>	5.8	6.3	6.0
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.2	4.4	4.0
<i>Wausau</i>	4.6	5.3	4.3

Place of Work Data

Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2,857.9	2,817.5	2,826.5
<i>Appleton</i>	116.0	114.9	116.0
<i>Eau Claire</i>	80.4	79.4	79.6
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	48.7	48.3	48.2
<i>Green Bay</i>	168.6	167.7	167.0
<i>Janesville</i>	69.0	68.6	69.4
<i>La Crosse</i>	73.1	72.2	73.2
<i>Madison</i>	347.3	343.7	341.7
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	829.3	820.8	838.1
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	92.2	91.2	91.3
<i>Racine</i>	81.2	80.4	80.3
<i>Sheboygan</i>	63.2	62.8	62.8
<i>Wausau</i>	71.9	71.1	71.6

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
April 2006
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
14	ADAMS	6.6%	8.4%	7	6.7%	56	MARATHON	4.6%	5.3%	57	4.3%
10	ASHLAND	7.3%	7.5%	18	6.5%	13	MARINETTE	6.8%	7.5%	17	5.9%
26	BARRON	6.0%	7.2%	23	5.7%	20	MARQUETTE	6.3%	7.6%	15	6.7%
5	BAYFIELD	8.0%	9.3%	3	7.2%	1	MENOMINEE	12.0%	11.6%	1	10.4%
50	BROWN	4.8%	5.1%	62	4.6%	24	MILWAUKEE	6.1%	6.1%	38	5.9%
67	BUFFALO	4.0%	5.1%	60	4.5%	64	MONROE	4.2%	5.1%	61	4.2%
21	BURNETT	6.3%	7.3%	21	6.1%	12	OCONTO	6.9%	7.8%	14	6.0%
66	CALUMET	4.1%	4.4%	67	4.2%	11	ONEIDA	7.0%	8.0%	11	6.5%
30	CHIPPEWA	5.6%	6.9%	26	5.7%	41	OUTAGAMIE	5.0%	5.6%	48	4.7%
25	CLARK	6.0%	7.3%	19	6.3%	71	OZAUKEE	3.8%	3.9%	71	3.5%
44	COLUMBIA	4.9%	5.5%	53	4.4%	45	PEPIN	4.8%	6.5%	31	5.4%
37	CRAWFORD	5.3%	6.1%	37	5.5%	42	PIERCE	4.9%	6.0%	40	4.8%
72	DANE	3.3%	3.4%	72	3.1%	23	POLK	6.1%	7.3%	20	5.8%
43	DODGE	4.9%	5.6%	47	4.8%	46	PORTAGE	4.8%	6.0%	39	4.8%
22	DOOR	6.1%	7.9%	12	6.3%	8	PRICE	7.6%	6.7%	30	5.6%
31	DOUGLAS	5.6%	6.5%	33	5.6%	29	RACINE	5.8%	6.3%	36	6.0%
47	DUNN	4.8%	5.9%	42	4.9%	57	RICHLAND	4.5%	5.2%	58	5.0%
68	EAU CLAIRE	4.0%	4.2%	70	4.1%	40	ROCK	5.1%	5.6%	49	5.3%
9	FLORENCE	7.3%	8.1%	10	6.6%	3	RUSK	8.3%	8.4%	8	7.2%
53	FOND DU LAC	4.7%	5.4%	55	4.6%	49	SAUK	4.8%	5.5%	52	4.6%
4	FOREST	8.2%	8.8%	4	8.3%	6	SAWYER	8.0%	8.7%	5	6.9%
60	GRANT	4.4%	5.3%	56	4.3%	35	SHAWANO	5.5%	6.3%	35	5.1%
52	GREEN	4.7%	5.4%	54	4.4%	65	SHEBOYGAN	4.2%	4.4%	68	4.0%
28	GREEN LAKE	5.8%	7.2%	22	6.1%	33	ST. CROIX	5.5%	6.8%	28	5.4%
55	IOWA	4.6%	5.9%	41	4.1%	17	TAYLOR	6.5%	7.0%	24	7.1%
2	IRON	0.2%	10.0%	2	9.7%	59	TREMPEALEAU	4.4%	5.5%	51	4.5%
19	JACKSON	6.3%	8.2%	9	5.8%	51	VERNON	4.7%	5.7%	45	4.4%
58	JEFFERSON	4.5%	5.2%	59	4.4%	7	VILAS	7.9%	8.5%	6	7.7%
27	JUNEAU	5.9%	6.8%	29	6.1%	61	WALWORTH	4.4%	5.0%	63	4.1%
39	KENOSHA	5.3%	5.8%	44	5.7%	16	WASHBURN	6.5%	7.8%	13	6.8%
48	KEWAUNEE	4.8%	5.6%	46	4.3%	62	WASHINGTON	4.3%	4.9%	65	4.2%
69	LA CROSSE	3.9%	4.4%	66	3.8%	70	WAUKESHA	3.8%	4.3%	69	3.8%
63	LAFAYETTE	4.2%	5.5%	50	4.0%	36	WAUPACA	5.4%	6.3%	34	5.6%
15	LANGLADE	6.6%	7.5%	16	6.6%	32	WAUSHARA	5.5%	6.9%	25	5.3%
18	LINCOLN	6.4%	6.9%	27	6.2%	54	WINNEBAGO	4.7%	5.0%	64	4.8%
38	MANITOWOC	5.3%	5.9%	43	5.1%	34	WOOD	5.5%	6.5%	32	5.8%

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
April 2006
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	APPLETON CITY	6.4%	6.9%	8	5.8%
2	BELOIT CITY	7.6%	7.8%	2	8.0%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.3%	3.7%	27	3.4%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.3%	4.6%	20	4.5%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	5.5%	6.1%	11	5.4%
25	FRANKLIN CITY	3.9%	4.0%	25	3.9%
4	GREEN BAY CITY	7.3%	7.7%	3	7.1%
19	GREENFIELD CITY	4.4%	4.8%	19	4.5%
15	JANESVILLE CITY	5.1%	5.8%	13	5.5%
8	KENOSHA CITY	6.1%	6.6%	10	6.5%
18	LA CROSSE CITY	4.7%	5.1%	18	4.5%
28	MADISON CITY	3.2%	3.2%	28	3.0%
5	MANITOWOC CITY	6.6%	7.0%	7	5.9%
22	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	4.1%	4.3%	21	3.8%
3	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.4%	7.5%	5	7.3%
24	NEENAH CITY	3.9%	4.1%	24	4.0%
26	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.8%	4.1%	23	3.7%
23	OAK CREEK CITY	3.9%	4.2%	22	4.1%
17	OSHKOSH CITY	4.9%	5.4%	16	5.3%
1	RACINE CITY	9.2%	9.8%	1	9.7%
13	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.2%	5.4%	17	5.1%
9	STEVENS POINT CITY	5.9%	7.5%	4	6.1%
14	SUPERIOR CITY	5.1%	5.9%	12	5.3%
16	WAUKESHA CITY	5.1%	5.5%	15	4.8%
10	WAUSAU CITY	5.8%	6.7%	9	5.5%
21	WAUWATOSA CITY	4.2%	4.0%	26	3.8%
12	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.3%	5.6%	14	5.1%
7	WEST BEND CITY	6.3%	7.3%	6	6.1%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
 Bureau of Workforce Information